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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

OCI# 0571/74  
April 30, 1974

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ROMANIA

Costa Rican President Visits-Leaves Empty Handed

The visit of Costa Rica's lame-duck president, Jose Figueres, to Bucharest from 22 to 25 April apparently accomplished little, but atmospheric.

Prior to the visit, a Costa Rican spokesman stated that Figueres would seek Romanian assistance for the newly nationalized Recope oil refinery and the interocean pipeline proposed by San Jose. Although the joint communique spoke of the "necessity of amplifying economic relations" and diversifying their structure "through economic and technical cooperation", it gave no hint of specific steps to be taken. The visit was indeed noteworthy for the lack of any concrete agreements, economic or otherwise.

In the realm of atmospheric, however, the communique waxed eloquent by repeating standard Romanian formulae across the broad spectrum of foreign affairs. The visit was a useful opportunity for Bucharest to demonstrate the political fruits of Ceausescu's "historic" trip through Latin America last year, but we are at a loss to see any advantages for the Costa Ricans.

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